

The decision of Sinclair Broadcasting to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear and egregious example of the dangers of media consolidation. Not only that, it is an affront to democracy and the first amendment.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. The idea of a corporation forcing their stations to show a clearly political documentary flies in the face of democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.